

LAFCO *of Monterey County*

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
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KATE McKENNA, AICP
Executive Officer

DATE: September 28, 2009

TO: Chair and Members of the Formation Commission

FROM: Kate McKenna, AICP, LAFCO Executive Officer

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE COMMENTS ON THE INITIAL STUDY / NEGATIVE
DECLARATION FOR THE CARMEL HIGHLANDS ONSITE
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (MONTEREY COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT)**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve comments (Attachment 2) to the County of Monterey on environmental documents for a wastewater management plan for the Carmel Highlands Area.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Background

Private septic systems that currently serve most of the Carmel Highlands Area are in violation of Regional Water Quality Control Board regulations. A proposed Plan to address this problem will be considered by the County Board of Supervisors in early October. The Plan includes recommendations for various code changes, water quality monitoring and related activities to improve the long term management of wastewater treatment and disposal systems. While none of those actions involve LAFCO, the Plan also includes a "Public Sewerage Feasibility Study" that would need LAFCO approval for implementation.

The feasibility study could eventually lead to an expansion of the boundaries of the Carmel Area Wastewater District to provide public sewer services in the Carmel Highlands Area. The District

now serves only a few properties in that area. Expansion of the District's boundaries would require approval from LAFCO and additional environmental review.

Discussion

The County of Monterey and the Carmel Area Wastewater District have included LAFCO in discussions and plans to provide long term solutions to the identified problem in the Carmel Highlands Area. LAFCO has an interest in the environmental work being done now for the County's Plan, as we would directly be involved in any future public sewerage solution.

The County has requested comments on the proposed plan and related environmental documents. Attachment 2 is a recommended comment letter from LAFCO to the County. Only one minor comment is made to make clear that any future connection to the Carmel Area Wastewater District will include a Sphere of Influence amendment as well as an annexation.

A map identifying the Carmel Highlands Onsite Wastewater Management Plan Area is shown in Attachment 1. The proposed Onsite Wastewater Management Plan can be viewed on the web at: http://www.co.monterey/health/EnvironmentalHealth/pdf/Final_Draft_OWMP_9-3-09.pdf. The draft Initial Study /Negative Declaration for the proposed Plan can be found at: http://www.co.monterey/health/EnvironmentalHealth/pdf/FINAL_DRAFT_IS_Carmel_Highlands_OWMP_9-3-09.pdf. Paper copies are available for review in the LAFCO office.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

The Commission may modify, reject or add to the draft comment letter.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kate McKenna, AICP
Executive Officer

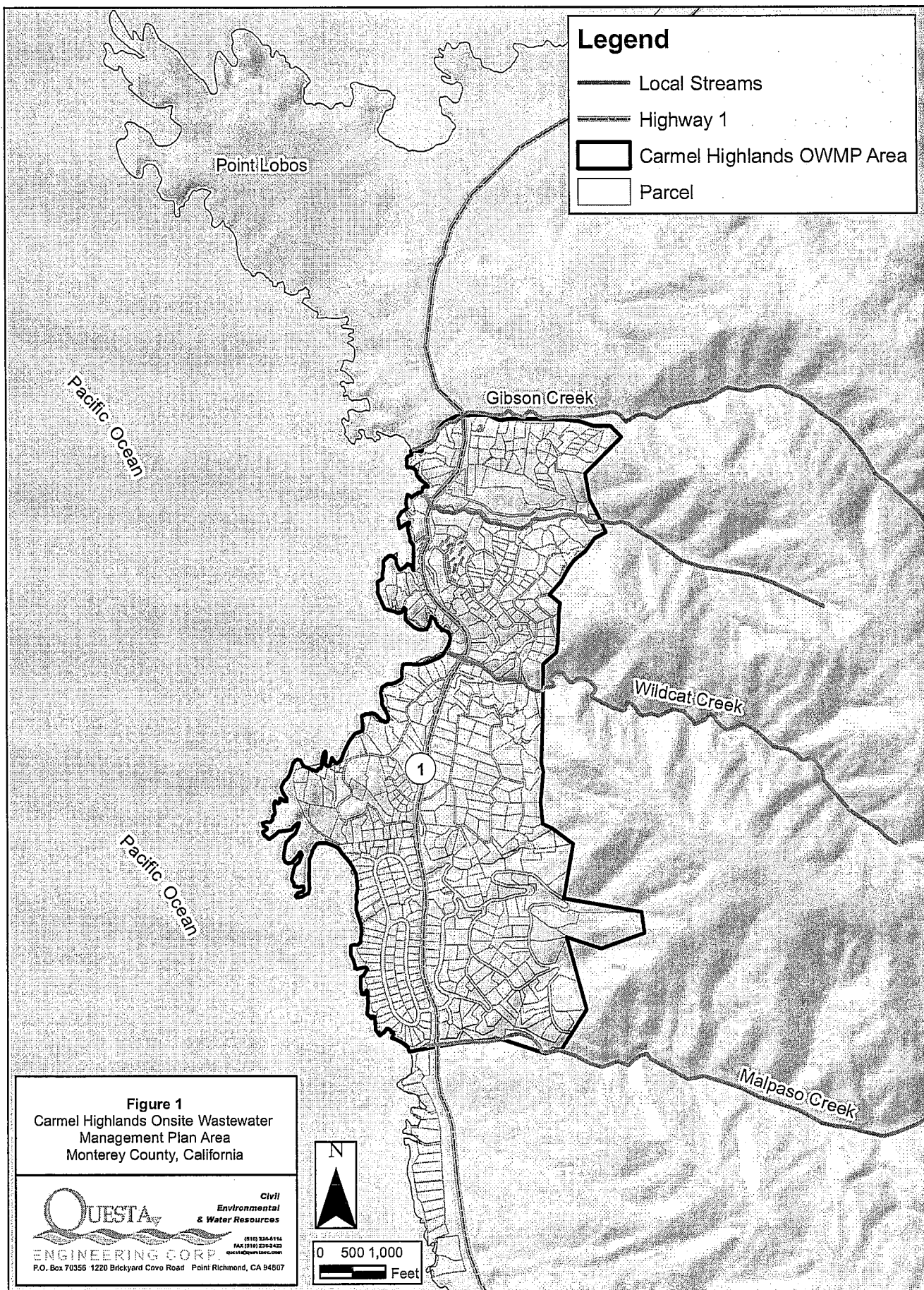
Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Map - Carmel Highlands Onsite Wastewater Management Plan Area
- Attachment 2 – Draft Comment Letter to County of Monterey

cc: Allen Stroh, Director, Monterey Co. Health Department, Division of Environmental Health
Ray von Dohren, Manager, Carmel Area Wastewater District

Attachment 1

Carmel Highlands Onsite Wastewater Management Plan Area



Attachment 2

Draft Comment Letter

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SIMÓN SALINAS,
Chair

KATE McKENNA, AICP
Executive Officer

September 28, 2009

Allen Stroh, Director
Monterey County Health Department
Division of Environmental Health
1270 Natividad Road, Room B301
Salinas, CA 93906

RE: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration for the Carmel Highlands Onsite
Wastewater Management Plan

Dear Mr. Stroh:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Initial Study / Proposed Negative Declaration for the Carmel Highlands Onsite Wastewater Management Plan.

As you are aware, LAFCO has the statutory responsibility to make determinations regarding changes in local government boundaries. For purposes of CEQA compliance, we are therefore a responsible agency for any proposed future expansion of the Carmel Area Wastewater District. One of the options in the Management Plan is a proposed "Public Sewerage Feasibility Study" that could eventually lead to an expansion of the District. We understand that additional environmental review would be needed for the District's expansion.

At this time, the Local Agency Formation Commission offers one comment for your consideration. Please make clear that LAFCO's role would be consider and approve an amendment to the District's Sphere of Influence prior to any additional annexations in the Carmel Highlands Area. The role of the Local Agency Formation Commission is outlined on page 12 of the Initial Study, and addresses annexations but not a Sphere of Influence. Our comment is a minor point, but will help to shape the scope of work for any future environmental review for expansion of the District's boundaries.

We appreciate the inter-agency coordination to develop long term solutions for the Carmel Highlands Area. Please contact LAFCO Executive Officer Kate McKenna at 754-5838 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Simón Salinas
Chair

cc: Ray von Dohren, Manager, Carmel Area Wastewater District